

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) All the bulk drugs and medicines excepting a few, are under the Free List of Imports and can be imported without an import licence. Imports of formulations separately and company wise are not monitored.

Manufacture of life saving drugs by third party

2177. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any court case is pending against withdrawal of loan licensing system;

(b) if so, since when the case is continuing and what steps have been taken to pursue the case; and

(c) what is the exact policy decision of the Department, particularly in regard to manufacture of life saving drugs by third party manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Most of the cases filed against withdrawal of Loan—Licensing system have been disposed of, dismissed or withdrawn. Efforts were made to have a common hearing for all the petitions in the Supreme Court. However, the petition to this effect was dismissed, whereby hearings continued separately in different High Courts.

(c) The manufacture of Drugs, including life saving drugs by third party manufacturers, is governed by the relevant provisions in this regard in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

Consumption of Potassic fertilizer

2178. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual consumption of potassic fertilizer in our country and the names of countries from which it is being imported, alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years; and

(b) whether Government have chalked out any plan to set up any joint venture with any foreign company having abundant reserves of potash and if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The consumption of potassic fertilizers in nutrient (K_2O) terms in last three years has been as under:

(figures in lakh metric tonnes)

Year	Consumption
1997-98	13.73
1998-99	13.32
1999-2000	17.33

There being no commercially exploitable reserves of Muriate of Potash (MOP) in the country, the entire requirement is met from imports. MOP was decontrolled on 25.8.1992 and its imports decanalised with effect from 17.6.1993. The imports of MOP and other potassic fertilizers can be made freely on private trade account. The Department of Fertilizers does not maintain information regarding sources, prices and expenditure incurred on them except in case of MOP procured under soft loan from Germany. According to available information, MOP was imported from Canada, Jordan, Germany, Israel and C.I.S in the last three years. The quantity and expenditure incurred on MOP imports under the German soft loan have been as under:

Year	Quantity (in lakh MTs)	Total Expenditure (in million US \$)
1997-98	1.27	14.78
1998-99	2.53	28.83
1999-2000	1.65	19.35

(b) No Sir, there is no such proposal at present.